

## CLAIMS

- 5 3. 33
1. A method for remote system monitoring, comprising:  
providing a first computer system;  
5 providing a second computer system which operates  
independently of the first computer system, but which can  
exchange E-mail with the first computer system;  
activating a desired program on the second computer  
system by sending a first E-mail message from the first  
10 computer system to the second computer system;  
generating a status report from the desired program,  
the status report comprising a desired summary of operating  
conditions which affect the performance of the second  
computer system; and  
15 returning the status report to the first computer  
system by a second E-mail message.
2. The method for remote system monitoring of claim 1  
further comprising:  
20 automatically evaluating the second E-mail message  
based on predetermined status conditions; and  
notifying an attendant of error conditions by a remote  
paging device based on the results of the evaluation.

3. A method for remote system monitoring, comprising:  
providing a monitor computer system;  
providing a remote computer system linked to the  
monitoring computer;

5 sending a network verification command from the monitor  
computer system to the remote computer system;  
responding with a network verification code from the  
remote computer system to the monitor computer system;  
sending an E-mail test message from the monitor  
10 computer system to the remote computer system;  
replying with an E-mail verification message from the  
remote computer system to the monitor computer system;  
sending an E-mail status request message from the  
monitor computer system to the remote computer system;  
15 locally analyzing the operation of the remote computer  
system;  
generating a status message by the remote computer  
system, the status message comprising at least a summary of  
the analysis of the operation of the remote computer;  
20 replying with an E-mail status message from the remote  
computer system to the monitor computer system;  
receiving the E-mail status message by the monitor  
computer system; and  
comparing the contents of the E-mail status message  
25 with a predetermined list of desired conditions at the  
remote computer system.

4. The method for remote system monitoring of claim 3  
further comprising:

30 evaluating the significance of discrepancies found  
during the step of comparing the contents of the E-mail  
status message; and  
performing a predetermined task based on the results of  
the evaluation.

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5. The method for remote system monitoring of claim 4 wherein the predetermined task comprises automatically activating a remote paging device to signal an operator.

5 6. The method for remote system monitoring of claim 4 wherein the predetermined task comprises automatically initiating a predetermined sequence of tasks on the remote computer system.

10 7. The method for remote system monitoring of claim 4 wherein the predetermined task comprises automatically alerting a predetermined list of people.

15 8. The method for remote system monitoring of claim 3 wherein the monitor computer system and the remote computer system utilize different hardware and different operating system software for their operation.

20 9. The method for remote system monitoring of claim 3 wherein the predetermined list of desired conditions comprises a list of processes to be monitored and system resource utilization.

10. A method for remote system monitoring, comprising:  
providing a monitor computer system;  
providing a remote computer system linked to the  
monitoring computer, wherein the monitor computer system and  
5 the remote computer system comprise heterogeneous systems;  
sending a network verification command from the monitor  
computer system to the remote computer system;  
responding with a network verification code from the  
remote computer system to the monitor computer system;  
10 sending an E-mail test message from the monitor  
computer system to the remote computer system;  
replying with an E-mail verification message from the  
remote computer system to the monitor computer system;  
sending an E-mail status request message from the  
15 monitor computer system to the remote computer system;  
locally analyzing the operation of the remote computer  
system;  
generating a status message by the remote computer  
system, the status message comprising at least a summary of  
20 the analysis of the operation of the remote computer;  
replying with an E-mail status message from the remote  
computer system to the monitor computer system;  
receiving the E-mail status message by the monitor  
computer system;  
25 comparing the contents of the E-mail status message  
with a list of processes to be monitored and current system  
resource utilization at the remote computer system;  
evaluating the significance of discrepancies found  
during the step of comparing the contents of the E-mail  
30 status message; and  
automatically activating a remote paging device to  
signal an operator based on the results of the evaluation.